generators are ready, the vice-versa is happening; the liquidated damages are worked out between both to ensure coordination. I assure the House, we are looking at the problem. If the hon. Member sends me that report, it will be of great use to me. Thank you.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Though not entirely satisfactory, the progress of private power plants in Tamil Nadu is comparatively better than other States. They provide for bank guarantees, escrow provision, etc. Mr. Minister, now at this stage, what prevents you and the other States from making Tamil Nadu as a model State in generating power in the private sector expeditiously?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM; Sir, I think, the hon. Member is aware of the problem. We are in a federal structure. He had been the Minister of Power and he knows how helpless sometimes, the Union Minister of Power can be *vis-a-vis* the State Governments. However, I will follow, his advice definitely and try to pass it on to the other States. What I am really worried is, they should not say that because it is my home State, I am trying to force the home State model on others. But Tamil Nadu has been the most sucessful State in generation of power in the private sector.

CAG report on National Drinking Water Mission

*245. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General of India has given a report on the working of National Drinking Water Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken on C&AG's observation?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of Hosue.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (No. 3 of 1998) for the year ended March, 31, 1997, Chapter-VI of which reviews the implementation of National Drinking Water

Mission during the period 1992-97, in all States except Madhya Pradesh, was presented in Parliament on 11th June, 1998.

The Report, inter-alia, has observed re-emergence of villages with no source for drinking water, non-functional water treatment plants, inflacted financial acheivement reports, diversion of funds to other schems, funds kept in personal/revenue deposits, excess expenditure met out of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) funds, suspected misappropriation of funds, time and cost overrun of schemes, schemes abandoned midway/or become inoperative, water sources rendered defunct and non-operational due to inadequate maintenance, material purchases in excess of requirement, ill-equipped water quality testing laboratories with inadequate facilities and untrained manpower, and deficient monitoring of implementation.

Water supply is a State subject and drinking water facilities to rural habitations are provided under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government endeavour to supplement the efforts of the States by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

Almost all the observations contained in the CAG Report were specific to various States and, therefore, action thereon was to be taken by the respective State Government. The Action Taken Report on the observations concerning each State was obtained. The reports received indicate that all the concerned States have taken remedial action in respect of most of the observations contained in the CAG Report. The Action Taken Note, based on the information thus compiled, was got vetted by the Principal Director of Audit, New Delhi and submitted to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Branch on 22nd June, 1999 through the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure (Monitoring Cell).

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minster is very, very sincere. But it also, somehow or other, does equally make unsatisfactory reading. The CAG has damned the Drinking Water Mission on at least about a dozen counts and yet, the only comment that we have had from the Ministry is,—of course, these are my words— "What can we do? It is a State

subject." It leaves it at that. Just to acquaint you with two or three damnations or strictures by the CAG, I would quote this. It says, "inflated Financial achievement reports, diversion of funds to other schemes, funds kept in person excess expenditure, suspected misappropriation of funds, inadequte maintenance and yet, material purchase in excess of requirement." And all you have to say is, "It is a State subject. Are we so helpless?" Mr. Chairman, Sir. MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Minister Mr. Patwa.

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Sir, I have put my first supplementary. Would you like me to repeat it, Sir? I have asked him why they are so helpless *(Interruptions)*.

श्री सुन्दर लाल पटवा: सभापति महोदय, जो प्रश्न पूछा गया है और जो उसका उत्तर विवरण में दिया है, वह अपने आपमें स्पष्ट है। माननीय सदस्य उसी को उठा रहे हैं।

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे: बड़ा अस्पष्ट नहीं है, स्पष्ट है। जैस विवरण में उल्लेख है, यह विषय स्टेट सब्जेक्ट है, राज्य का विषय है और केन्द्र सरकार की इसमें एक लिमिटेड भूमिका है, जो हम पूरी कर रहे हैं।

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे: मुझे समझ में नहीं आता, अगर यह आपका उत्तर स्पष्ट है और यह अगर स्टेट से संबंधित है तो फिर केन्द्र का सवाल कुछ होता ही नहीं, केन्द्र का कोई उत्तर दायित्व होता ही नहीं।

श्री सुन्दर लाल पटवा: सर, अगर आप कृपा करें तो मैं बताना चाहूंगा, नियंत्रक एंव महालेखाकार की रिपोर्ट में निहित लगभग सभी टिप्पणियां विभिन्न राज्यों के लिए विशिष्ट थीं तथा उन पर संबंधित राज्य सरकारों द्वारा कार्यवाही की जानी थी। प्रत्येक राज्य से संबंधित टिप्पणियों पर की गई कार्यवाही की रिपोर्ट प्राप्त की गई थी।

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे: सर, वह टिप्पणियां क्या है?

श्री सुन्दर लाल पटवा: वही तो मैं बता रहा हूं। इतनी देर में तो मैं बता देता। सर प्राप्त रिपोर्टो में यह दर्शाया गया है कि नियंत्रक एवं महालेखाकार की रिपोर्ट में निहित लगभग सभी टिप्पणियों पर सभी संबंधित राज्यों द्वारा सुधारात्मक कार्यवाही शुरू कर दी गई। इस प्रकार संकलित सूचना पर आधारित 'की गई कार्यवाही नोट' की प्रधान लेखा परीक्षा निदेशक, नई दिल्ली से जांच कराई गई थी तथा वित्त मंत्रालय, व्यय विभाग (निगरानी प्रकोष्ठ) के माध्यम से 22 जून, 1999 को लोक सभा सचिवालय, लोक लेखा समिति शाखा को प्रस्तुतु किया गया था।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.